

Dear Friends,

Equalizing Agriculture funding and aligning with other school choice programs is Paramount in today's education. I fully support Senate Bill 5283 and commend everyone that had a hand in drafting.

My name is Cricket Jacquier, and my family has a dairy farm in East Canaan CT. As a graduate of the Housatonic High School. The Ag education program is a guiding principle every day as I've worked with Ten family members and many employees over the years on our farm. They were part of this program and This opportunity has been instrumental in keeping our business in CT for almost 75 years.

Ag Education goes beyond the walls of any classroom, expanding and opening new opportunities for career choices that have allowed many businesses to thrive here in CT. The Ag programs are imbedded in our communities and are critical to be recognized for the value they bring to our culture and our economy.

It's imperative to make sure that career opportunities and experiences parallel with the core subjects in a classroom. Providing hands on applicability to a particular subject provides a powerful way to see value within education. Linking together with another component the AG programs bring is the FFA program. FFA prepares members for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

I look at SB 5283 as the ultimate foundation that we believe in giving students the opportunities to develop strong Leadership skills, manage business opportunities, utilize technologies, and provide them with tools needed to allow one to be successful in any career choice one may choose.

We are all focused on a more Sustainable Environment. Agriculture education will be an important component of our Social, economic, and environmental responsibilities as we all move forward. We have experienced how important our local food supply is, how easy it is for supply chain disruptions, and how dependent we are on each other. There's no better time to Support bill 5283 and recognize the important work that Ag education brings to each of you as you sit with your family for three meals a day.

Sincerely, Cricket Jacquier